

Schaben, Darlene

From: Hagen, Patricia <phagen@audubon.org>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2013 5:15 PM
To: Hoke, John
Cc: Anita Randolph; Susan Flader (fladers@missouri.edu)
Subject: Audubon Missouri and Support for Water Quality Standards

Mr. John Hoke, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Water Protection Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

VIA email john.hoke@dnr.mo.gov

Dear Mr. Hoke:

I am submitting this letter to comment as the state director for Audubon Missouri, in support of the Proposed Rulemaking for 10 CSR 20-7.031 Water Quality Standards.

The Proposed Rulemaking for 10 CSR 20-7.031 Water Quality Standards is a positive step, however, it still fails to provide default fishable and swimmable designations to all waters of the state in Missouri, as required by state law. It is absolutely critical that scientific water quality standards be used to designate fishable/swimmable use for our state's waters. Almost every other state applies default fishable and recreational uses to its waters. Missouri should do the same.

In addition, because the Proposed Rule omits many of Missouri's headwater streams, lakes, and wetlands, the habitats of fish, crayfish, mussels, herons, turtles, frogs, salamanders, and other wildlife are left without sufficient protections to keep them healthy, and at the same time, these omissions also put swimmers, waders, floaters and boaters at increased risk of illness.

The Department of Natural Resources first promised to have default fishable/swimmable use designations for Missouri waters in place by 2003. A decade has passed and Missourians are still denied the benefits of the Clean Water Act.

Please approve this Proposed Rule, which advances water quality protections in Missouri.

In addition, it is critical that protections for all waters of the state be established to protect our wetlands, lakes, and headwater streams and to achieve compliance with state law and with the Clean Water Act. Missourians deserve to have adequate protections in place for our precious waters to safeguard our health and our heritage.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Patricia Hagen, PhD

Vice President/Executive Director, Audubon Missouri

314-223-1350